

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the instant response. No new matter has been added as a result of the specification amendments.

SPECIFICATION OBJECTION

(Currently amended)

Page 4 line 1

In addition, the company FTLab (FontLab) has developed the product Thumb Type as a solution for the perceived problems with the handwriting recognition device.

Page 12 line 4

Figure 4 5 illustrates a network environment 151, including a handheld electronic system (e.g., personal digital assistant 100) coupled to a host computer system and the Internet via a cradle device 160, in which embodiments of the present invention can be practiced.

Applicants wish to amend the specification in light of the objections noted by the Examiner. No new matter has been added as a result of the amendments in the specification.

35 U.S.C. §1 03

Claims 1, 5, 7, 18-19, 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chacon et al (US Patent No. 5,831,819), hereinafter, Chacon. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 5, 7, and 18

Claim 1 recites, in part:

wherein said keys of said plurality of keys are individually sized such that multiple ones can be depressed by a single fingertip depression.

Claim 1 recites "a miniature keyboard comprising a plurality of keys for inputting data to a portable electronic device; wherein said plurality of keys are individually sized such that multiple ones can be depressed by a single finger tip depression," as claimed. Applicants respectfully assert that Chacon fails to teach or suggest this claimed limitation.

In support of the rejection, the Office Action cites Col. 1, lines 54-60.

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited passages do not teach or suggest the "multiple ones can be depressed by a single finger tip depression," as claimed.

The passage at Col. 1, lines 54-60 may teach a plurality of keys that are individually sized, but the Applicant respectfully asserts that this passage has no teaching or suggestion of sizing keys on a miniature keyboard such that "multiple ones can be depressed by a single finger tip," as claimed. Chacon col. 6, lines 4-

6 teaches large keys. “ so, the keys are large, easy to use, and located on the housing at or near the gripping portion.” Large keys actually teach away from the keys claimed such that multiple ones can be depressed by a single fingertip depression, as claimed. Applicants do not understand the passage in Cannon to contain any teaching or suggestion of a miniature keyboard comprising keys such that multiple ones can be depressed by a single finger tip depression, as claimed because the large keys can not accommodate multiple keys depressed by a single fingertip. In summary, Chacon col. 6 lines 4-6 teaches away from a keys that are individually sized such that multiple ones can be depressed by a single finger tip depression by teaching large keys.

Therefore, Claim 1 is not obvious in view of Chacon and therefore traverses the rejection of record.

Claims 5, 7, and 18 depend from Independent Claim 1. Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 5, 7, and 18 traverse the rejections of record as they depend from an allowable base Claim and respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims.

Claims 19 and 28

Claim 19 recites, in part:

wherein said keys of said plurality of keys are individually sized such that multiple ones can be depressed by a single fingertip depression.

Claim 19 recites “a miniature keyboard comprising a plurality of keys for inputting data to a portable electronic device; wherein said plurality of keys are individually sized such that multiple ones can be depressed by a single finger tip depression,” as claimed. Applicants respectfully assert that Chacon fails to teach or suggest this claimed limitation.

In support of the rejection, the Office Action cites Col. 1, lines 54-60. Applicants respectfully assert that the cited passages do not teach or suggest the “multiple ones can be depressed by a single finger tip depression,” as claimed. The passage at Col. 1, lines 54-60 may teach a plurality of keys that are individually sized, but the Applicant respectfully asserts that this passage has no teaching or suggestion of sizing keys on a miniature keyboard such that “multiple ones can be depressed by a single finger tip,” as claimed. Chacon col. 6, lines 4-6 teaches large keys. “so, the keys are large, easy to use, and located on the housing at or near the gripping portion.” Large keys actually teach away from the keys claimed such that multiple ones can be depressed by a single fingertip depression, as claimed. Applicants do not understand the passage in Cannon to contain any teaching or suggestion of a miniature keyboard comprising keys such that multiple ones can be depressed by a single finger tip depression, as claimed because the large keys can not accommodate multiple keys depressed by a single fingertip. In summary, Chacon col. 6 lines 4-6 teaches away from a

keys that are individually sized such that multiple ones can be depressed by a single finger tip depression by teaching large keys.

Therefore, Claim 19 is not obvious in view of Chacon and therefore traverses the rejection of record.

Claim 28 recites, in part:

a plurality of keys that are individually sized such that each individual key surface is substantially smaller than a surface of a single finger depression.

Claim 28 recites “an input mechanism comprising a plurality of keys that are individually sized such that each individual key surface is substantially smaller than a surface of a single finger depression,” as claimed. Applicants respectfully assert that Chacon fails to disclose or suggest this claimed limitation.

In support of the rejection, the Office Action cites Col. 1, lines 54-60. Applicants respectfully assert that the cited passages do not teach or suggest the “multiple ones can be depressed by a single finger tip depression,” as claimed. The passage at Col. 1, lines 54-60 may teach a plurality of keys that are individually sized, but the Applicant respectfully asserts that this passage has no teaching or suggestion of sizing keys on a miniature keyboard such that “multiple ones can be depressed by a single finger tip,” as claimed. Chacon col. 6, lines 4-6 teaches large keys. “so, the keys are large, easy to use, and located on the

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housing at or near the gripping portion.” Large keys actually teach away from the keys claimed such that multiple ones can be depressed by a single fingertip depression, as claimed. Applicants do not understand the passage in Cannon to contain any teaching or suggestion of a miniature keyboard comprising keys such that multiple ones can be depressed by a single finger tip depression, as claimed because the large keys can not accommodate multiple keys depressed by a single fingertip. In summary, Chacon col. 6 lines 4-6 teaches away from a keys that are individually sized such that multiple ones can be depressed by a single finger tip depression by teaching large keys.

Therefore, Claim 28 is not obvious in view of Chacon and therefore traverses the rejection of record.

Claims 2, 8, 10, 12-14, 16, 20, 23, 25-26, 29, 31

Claims 2, 8, 10, 12-14, 16, 20, 23, 25-26, 29, 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chacon et al. As formentioned in Claims 1, 19, 28 in view of Preker (US Patent No. 5,598,469), hereafter, Preker. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

For the reasons discussed in response to Claim 1, Chacon does not teach or suggest the “multiple ones can be depressed by a single finger tip

depression,” as claimed. Applicants respectfully assert that Chacon fails to teach or suggest this claimed limitation.

Chacon taken in combination with Preker fails to suggest this claim limitation because Preker does not remedy this deficiency in Chacon. Preker may disclose a keyboard having all buttons of one row having their buttons at a greater height than all of the buttons of another row. However, Preker fails to teach or suggest “multiple ones can be depressed by a single finger tip depression,” as claimed. Preker discloses Col. 1, lines 39-42 “individual buttons are at such a distance from each other that simultaneous actuation of two buttons by the index finger appears impossible.” Preker fails to teach or suggest “multiple ones can be depressed by a single finger tip depression,” as claimed because he teaches that simultaneous actuation of two buttons by the index finger appears impossible. In summary, Preker actually teaches away from the limitation, as claimed.

Therefore, Claim 1 is not obvious over Chacon in view of Preker and therefore traverses the rejection of record.

For the foregoing rationale, Claims 2, 8, 10, 12-14, 16, 20, 23, 25-26, 29, 31 are not rendered obvious over Chacon in view of Preker. As such, allowance of Claims 2, 8, 10, 12-14, 16, 20, 23, 25-26, 29, and 31 is respectfully solicited.

Claims 3-4, 21-22, 27, 30

Claims 3-4, 21-22, 27, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chacon et al. In view of Preker aforementioned in Claims 2, 8, 20, 26, 29 in view of Kiernan (PUB. No. US 2002/0110238v A1). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

For the reasons discussed in response to Claim 1, Chacon does not teach or suggest the “multiple ones can be depressed by a single finger tip depression,” as claimed. Applicants respectfully assert that Chacon fails to teach or suggest this claimed limitation.

Chacon et al. in view of Preker taken in combination with Kiernan fails to suggest this claim limitation because Kiernan does not remedy the deficiencies in Chacon in view of Preker. Preker may disclose a keyboard having all buttons of one row having their buttons at a greater height than all of the buttons of another row. However, Preker fails to teach or suggest “multiple ones can be depressed by a single finger tip depression,” as claimed. Preker discloses Col. 1, lines 39-42 “individual buttons are at such a distance from each other that simultaneous actuation of two buttons by the index finger appears impossible.” Preker fails to teach or suggest “multiple ones can be depressed by a single finger tip depression,” as claimed because he teaches that simultaneous actuation of two

buttons by the index finger appears impossible. In summary, Preker actually teaches away from the limitation, as claimed.

Kiernan may disclose a keypad with tapers to a lower height towards the outer edge of the keypad. However, Kiernan discloses section [0005] lines 9-10, "a set of at least nine independently manually actuable keys. Kiernan fails to teach or suggest "multiple ones can be depressed by a single finger tip depression," as claimed. In fact, Kiernan actually teaches away from the limitation, as claimed.

Therefore, Claim 1 is not obvious over Chacon in view of Preker taken in combination with Kiernan and therefore traverses the rejection of record.

For the foregoing rationale, Claims 3-4, 21-22, 27, and 30 are not rendered obvious over Chacon et al in view of Preker in view of Kiernan. As such, allowance of Claims 3-4, 21-22, 27, and 30 is respectfully solicited.

Claims 6, 11, 15, 24

Claims 6, 11, 15, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chacon et al. in view of Preker as forementioned in claims 2, 8, 13, 20 in view of Miller (US Patent No. 5,660,448), hereafter Miller. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

For the reasons discussed in response to Claim 1, Chacon in view of Preker does not teach or suggest the “multiple ones can be depressed by a single finger tip depression,” as claimed. Applicants respectfully assert that Chacon in view of Preker fails to disclose or suggest this claimed limitation.

Chacon et al. in view of Preker taken in combination with Miller fails to suggest this claim limitation because Miller does not remedy this deficiency in Chacon in view of Preker. Miller may disclose a standard QWERTY keyboard. However, Miller disclosed Col. 6, lines 43-46 “the distance between the center points of adjacent keys in the same row of the QWERTY keyboard layout 410 of keyboard 440 is maintained approximately the same as in standard keyboard 140.” Miller fails to teach or suggest “multiple ones can be depressed by a single fingertip depression,” as claimed because in a standard keyboard, keys are not individually sized such that multiple ones can be depressed by a single fingertip depression. In summary, Miller actually teaches away from the limitation, as claimed.

Therefore, Claim 1 is not obvious over Chacon in view of Preker taken in combination with Miller and therefore traverses the rejection of record.

For the foregoing rationale, Claims 6, 11, 15, and 24 are not rendered obvious over Chacon et al. in view of Preker in view of Miller. As such, allowance of Claims 6, 11, 15, and 24 is respectfully solicited.

Claim 17

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chacon et al. As aforementioned in Claim 1 in view of Louis (US Patent No. 5,212,473), hereafter Louis. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

For the reasons discussed in response to Claim 1, Chacon does not teach or suggest the “multiple ones can be depressed by a single finger tip depression,” as claimed. Applicants respectfully assert that Chacon fails to teach or suggest this claimed limitation.

Chacon et al. taken in combination with Louis fails to teach or suggest this claim limitation because Louis does not remedy this deficiency in Chacon. Louis may disclose a an audible sound indicating the selected key has been successfully activated. However, Louis fails to teach or suggest “multiple ones can be depressed by a single finger tip depression,” as claimed.

Therefore, Claim 1 is not obvious over Chacon taken in combination with Louis and therefore traverses the rejection of record.

For the foregoing rationale, Claim 17 is not rendered obvious over Chacon et al. in view of Louis. As such, allowance of Claim 17 is respectfully solicited.

CONCLUSION

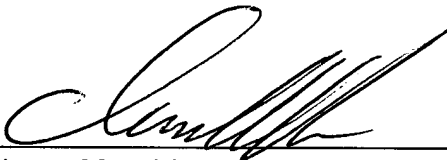
In light of the above listed remarks, reconsideration of the rejected Claims is requested. Based on the arguments presented above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-31 overcome the rejections and objections of record and, therefore, allowance of Claims 1-31 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner have a question regarding the instant response, the Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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